

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Group Art Unit 3679

6/Amend a - 1/24 of m
2/1
5-14-03

In re

Patent Application of

Andrew J. Whitton, et. al.

Application No. 10/085,649

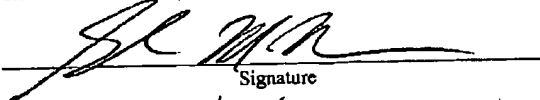
Confirmation No. 8642

Filed: February 26, 2002

Examiner: Ryan Flandro

"SHAFT ASSEMBLY SAFETY MECHANISM"

I, Glenn M. Massina, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at (703) 872-9326, on the date of my signature.


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RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This responds to the January 13, 2003 Office Action. Please amend the application as set forth below.

Amendments

In the claims

Please cancel claims 4-6 without prejudice.

Please replace claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 12 and 14-16 with the correspondingly numbered claims below.

5.6.2.1 (Amended) A shaft configured for interconnection with a coupling element, the shaft comprising:
an axial shaft body having upper and lower surfaces and terminating in a forward end;
a bolt receiving recess in the upper shaft surface adjacent the forward shaft end; and
the shaft body forward end having a substantially planar surface except for at least one projection extending from the shaft forward end, the at least one projection having an upper surface contiguous with the upper shaft surface and positioned completely within an upper hemisphere of the shaft body.

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GROUP 3600

Official

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment in the above-identified application. A total of eight (8) pages is transmitted via facsimile.

The fee has been calculated as shown below.

CLAIMS AS AMENDED							
(1)	(2) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	(3)	(4) HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(5) PRESENT EXTRA	(6) RATE	(7) ADDITIONAL FEE	
TOTAL CLAIMS	15	MINUS	20	0	X \$18	0.00	
INDEP. CLAIMS	2	MINUS	3	0	X \$84	0.00	
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT ---						0.00	

No additional claim fee is required.

Applicants respectfully request an appropriate extension of time.

Charge or credit Deposit Account No. 09-0260 with any shortage or overpayment of the fees associated with this communication. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn M. Massina
Reg. No. 40,081

File No. 091395-9214 (4596-TC-AU)
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